

National Medicare Expenditures & Fraud Cost

Projected national Medicare expenditures for 2002 was \$263.9 billion. Claims cost due to fraud, waste and abuse is conservatively estimated to account for 6.3% or \$16.6 billion annually. Medicare fraud is costing the nation:

- \$45.5 Million per day
- \$1.9 Million per hour
- \$31,631 per minute

Medicare expenditures for Arkansans for 2002 was estimated at \$2.718 billion but fraud, waste and abuse accounted for \$171,244,710 of these dollars. This means fraud is costing Arkansans approximately:

- \$469,163 per day
- \$19,548 per hour
- \$325 per minute

This is money lost to Arkansas citizens for providing needed services and assistance. Stop and think about what these dollars could purchase for Arkansas seniors and people with disabilities! How much of the proposed prescription drug benefit could be covered by these stolen dollars?

Combating this problem requires that each of us take responsibility for:

- Understanding the cost of doing nothing
- Review all Medicare Summary Notices (MSN) to verify that you or your family member actually received the services that Medicare is paying on your behalf
- Calling your provider and/or the Medicare number on your MSN if you have questions or want to report problems with the statement
- Calling the fraud hotline if you still feel further action is necessary